

A JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

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Edited by James L. Clifford
Barnard College, Columbia Univ., New York 27

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JONATHAN SWIFT 1745-1945

Two hundred years ago died one of the greatest geniuses England has produced. Today we honor his memory, and as a part of the general celebration the JNL is glad to devote considerable space to items concerned with research on Swift.

It had been planned to have a guest editor for this special number. J. R. Moore of Indiana Univ. very generously agreed to do the work of collection and arrangement of the material. Then suddenly, early in July, he rushed off to England to be one of the staff of the new army university at Shrivenham, leaving the issue about half completed. Fortunately Maury Quinlan, now teaching at Lehigh Univ., jumped into the breach and has helped your harassed editor get the copy into shape. Thanks to these two scholars, then (and to the many contributors), here is our tribute to the author of Gulliver.

The autumn of 1945 will bring numerous Swift celebrations. Many, perhaps, we have not heard about, but if members will send in accounts of what their universities are doing we will include them in the next issue.

Of major interest is the fact that the program for Group VII at the next M. L. A. meeting will be wholly devoted to Swift. The Chairman, Louis A. Landa (Chicago), has arranged a program, with the principal papers to be given by Herbert Davis (Smith), Arthur Case (Northwestern), and Ricardo Quintana (Wisconsin). If only travel conditions permit, this program should be a powerful magnet to draw scholars to Chicago next December.

SWIFT WORK IN PROGRESS

Louis Landa and J. E. Tobin are preparing a bibliography of critical studies on Swift for the past fifty years. This will be similar to Tobin's recent Pope Bibliography, described elsewhere in this issue. Containing close to 600 titles, it will probably appear before the end of the year.

Landa, as has already been announced, is collaborating with Herbert Davis in volume IX of the new Swift edition, which is to include the sermons. In the October issue of JEGP will appear an article by Landa entitled "Swift and Charity."

Harold Williams is progressing steadily with his edition of the Journal to Stella. We hope our readers have noticed his queries in N & Q, asking aid in identifying various people etc. (clxxxiv - 137, 376; clxxxvii - 147). He will be delighted to hear from any of you who have possible suggestions.

Williams (address Buntingford, Herts.) also writes that there is to be an exhibition of Swift books and MSS. in October at the Cambridge University Library. He adds: "The greater part of the exhibition will come from the collection of Lord Rothschild and from my own. It should, I believe, be a notable exhibition."

"A catalogue will be printed, but at the time being, the Syndics of the Library, are unwilling, owing to the paper shortage, to venture on more than a 12mo of eight pages. Whether, in the end, we can do something better I am not at all sure. In addition, however, Mr. Stanley Morison, editor of The Times Literary Supplement, has offered me the whole of the back page of that publication, specially set, for a 'write-up' of the exhibition."

Another exhibition of Swift items is planned by the Grolier Club (47 E. 60th St. New York), at which Herbert Davis is to speak.

S. N. Bogorad (Northwestern) writes that as part of a larger work (Swift's Reputation in America) he hopes this summer to finish his bibliography of the Swift items catalogued in the Index of American Periodical Literature at the New York University Library.

By this time, surely, Arthur Case's Four Essays on Gulliver's Travels (Princeton Univ. Press) is available, though your editor must confess he has not yet seen a copy.

TEXAS STUDIES IN ENGLISH

Henry Nash Smith writes from the Univ. of Texas that the next issue of Studies in English, which is now in the press, will be wholly given over to the 18th century. Just when it will appear is uncertain, owing to paper and labor shortages.

The various essays included in the volume are: "Pope Editing Pope" by R. H. Griffith; "The Rape of the Lock" by E. G. Fletcher; "The Dunciad, Book IV" by George Sherburn; "The Game of Ombre in the Rape of the Lock" by Arthur Case; "Pope and the Victorians" by Oscar Maurer, Jr.; "Quotations from Pope in Johnson's Dictionary" by T. Stenberg; "Swift, the Mysteries, and Deism" by Louis Landa; "Shakespeare's Plays in the Theatrical Repertory When Garrick Came to London" by A. H. Scouten; "The Influence of Fielding's *Milieu* upon His Humor" by Leo Hughes.

POPE BIBLIOGRAPHY

One of the most useful little pamphlets recently printed for 18th century scholars is J. E. Tobin's Alexander Pope: A List of Critical Studies Published from 1895 to 1944. This is a 30-page bibliography in which the items are divided into various sections -- i.e. "Literary

Career," "Criticism," "Foreign Reputation," "Individual Works."

The work is printed by COSMOPOLITAN SCIENCE & ART SERVICE, 638 Lexington Ave., New York 22, N.Y. (price 75 ¢)

NICHOL SMITH VOLUME

Designed to be presented to D. Nichol Smith on his seventieth birthday in September, a special volume of essays is being published by the Clarendon Press in Oxford. The editors, two old pupils of Nichol Smith, are J. R. Sutherland and F. P. Wilson.

The volume is a tribute from both sides of the Atlantic to one of the most celebrated and well-beloved 18th century scholars of our day. And certainly every reader of the JNL will eagerly look forward to the appearance of this important collection.

The essays (listed in chronological order) are: "Addison," C. S. Lewis; "The Conciseness of Swift," Herbert Davis; "Deane Swift, Hawkesworth, and The Journal to Stella," Harold Williams; "Pope at Work," George Sherburn; "The Inspiration of Pope's Poetry," John Butt; "Where once stood their plain homely Dwelling," Collins Baker (on eighteenth-century painters); "Some Aspects of Eighteenth-Century Prose," J. R. Sutherland; "A Note on the Composition of Gray's *Elegy*," H. W. Garrod; "John Langhorne," Hugh Macdonald; "Notes on some Lesser Poets of the Eighteenth Century," W. L. Renwick; "The Formal Parts of Johnson's Letters," R. W. Chapman; "Mrs. Piozzi's Letters," J. L. Clifford; "The Power of Memory in Boswell and Scott," F. A. Pottle; "Robert Burns," R. Dewar; "Fanny Burney," Lord David Cecil; "Elegant Extracts," Edmund Blunden; "The Old Cumberland Beggar" and the Wordsworthian Unities," H. V. D. Dyson; "Matthew Arnold and Eighteenth-Century Poetry," Geoffrey Tillotson; "A List of the Writings of David Nichol Smith," Compiled by F. P. Wilson.

NEWLY DISCOVERED LETTER
TO CAPTAIN SYMPSON

The following letter has been discovered among the family papers of the late Colonel Clay Ynlhmd-wihlma Simpson, of Horse Cave, Ky., well known for his life-long interest in the Kentucky Derby. At his charming country home, "Three Castles," the papers were found loosely sorted in a wooden box which had apparently been used for poker chips before Colonel Simpson's retirement from active life.

The late owner of the letter had on all occasions made no secret of his descent from Captain Richard Sympton of Redriff; and this verse epistle should be of special interest to any future editor of Captain Sympton's correspondence with his cousin Lemuel, since all their previously published letters are in prose.

In the absence of any known heirs, Colonel Simpson's papers are deposited subject to the adjudication of the celebrated Judge Priest, by whose permission the epistle appears in this issue of JNL.

No doubt Judge Priest will seek expert opinions from such authorities as Prof. R.W. Frantz, who has done so much research work on the genealogy of the Sympton family, and from Prof. Hardin Craig, who is specially qualified as a native Kentuckian, a lover of horses, and an editor of the Travels of Captain Sympton's correspondent.

The manuscript is not yet accessible for chemical tests or microscopic examination. As far as we can judge from a clear photostat, it is written on a single half-sheet in a somewhat faded 18th century hand, and it appears to be beyond reasonable doubt the holograph of Captain Lemuel Gulliver. Some spots near the lower edge are of doubtful origin. They appear to be browned from age, but it has been suggested that they may be stains from tobacco juice while the manuscript was in Colonel Simpson's possession.

All statements in the epistle would seem to be corroborated by the recipient himself, who once

remarked of his cousin that "it became a thing of proverb among his neighbors at Redriff, when any one affirmed a thing, to say it was as true as if Mr. Gulliver had spoke it." In other words, according to his neighbors, his aye was aye and his nay, neigh.

The letter is as follows:

"Dear Dick,

Your letter came to hand
As I lay here becalmed on land,
Reading what authors call reviews
And finding-fault of sea-Yahoos--
Reason enough why monkey spews.

Those college dons and sailor
chaps

Can't find my longitudes on maps;
Correct by adding (if they'd
please)

Three hundred and three score
degrees!

Leviathan's not caught with hooks,
Nor navigation's learned from
books;

When Herman Moll begins to stare,
Tell him your cousin Lem was there!

You ask me how we chanced to find
The Houyhnhnms. Now I call to mind
(And shall recall, till mind de-
cays,

Like Jews' white stones or saints'
red days),

In navigators' platitudes

We'd got in the HORSE LATITUDES.

Ships go where wind or current
flows--

But I have spun that yarn in prose.

Give my regards to Sall, and all
The she-Yahoos you keep in hall.
For me, the stable-- but for you,
Hnuv illa nyha majah Yahoo!*

The Mews,

Lem¹ Gulliver

Horsham,

May 18, 1727.

*Through the kind assistance of a distinguished visitor, a Field Intelligence Officer in the 1726th Anzac Cavalry, we are able to translate this line as "Take care of thyself, gentle Yahoo!"

J.R. Moore, who sent us this remarkable discovery, has unfortunately not disclosed the nature of the other manuscripts found among the papers of Colonel Simpson. We have, however, been reliably

informed by an eminent Professor in an eastern university that included among the papers (immediately turned over to the War Department) was the formula used in Lagado for the extraction of sunbeams from cucumbers.

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STRANGE BEDFELLOW DEPARTMENT

A Note on Swift and Captain Kidd

We are indebted to W. H. Bonner of the Univ. of Buffalo for the following interesting historical item. "The imprisonment and trial of Captain William Kidd, the Pirate, in 1701, was the center of a political tempest in which impeachment proceedings were pressed by the Tory faction against four great Whig Lords: William, the Earl of Portland; John, Lord Somers; Edward, the Earl of Oxford; and Charles, Lord Halifax. Somers was the principal target and was forced to retire from the Lord High Chancellorship. Halifax was harried until he resigned from the Exchequer and the Treasury. The Whig Lords had been Kidd's backers. Naturally the Tories exploited every possibility to blacken their political enemies by blackening Kidd. They tried to make Kidd talk and thus implicate the great Lords. He said nothing. They made much over the abuse of the Great Seal and the legality of commissioning Kidd.

"The examination and trial of Kidd and the impeachment proceedings were nicely timed to run parallel. Ten articles against the Earl of Portland, for example, were read before the House of Lords and debated on the very day that Kidd was found guilty of murder and one of the piracy counts. Two of these articles named complicity with Kidd. The impeachment proceedings were commonly called "Kidd's business" or "Kidd's affair". One of the fourteen articles against Somers involved Kidd. On May 23rd Kidd was executed, and within a month thereafter the im-

peachment affair was over, the Whigs being acquitted.

"Party papers and pamphlets followed every stroke. Among them was Swift's powerfully reasoned argument in defense of Somers and the others, called A Discourse of the Contests and Dissensions between the Nobles and the Commons in Athens and Rome, a pamphlet marking Swift's entry into political controversy. Thus Jonathan Swift and Captain Kidd were leagued together on the same side of a heated and vindictive political broil in which Swift's prose was no less golden than Kidd's silence.

"The last paragraph from the Contests and Dissensions is so timely that it bears repeating.

"In All Free States the Evil to be avoided is Tyranny, that is to say, the Summa Imperii, or unlimited Power solely in the Hands of the One, the Few, or the Many. Now, we have shown, that although most Revolutions of Government in Greece and Rome began with the Tyranny of the People, yet they concluded in that of a single Person. So that an usurping Populace is its own Dupe; a mere Underworker, and a Purchaser in Trust for some single Tyrant; whose State and Power they advance to their own Ruin, with as blind an Instinct, as Worms that dig weaving magnificent Habits for Beings of a superior Nature to their own."

SOME RECENT ARTICLES

H. B. Wright's article "Matthew Prior and Elizabeth Singer" in the Jan., 1945, PQ is important to all students of Prior. A series of hitherto unprinted letters from Prior proves delightful reading. In the same journal there are A.O. Aldridge's "Lord Shaftesbury's Literary Theories", and V. M. Hamm's "Pope and Malebranche."

In the June Journal of the History of Ideas may be found W. Lynskey's "Goldsmith and the Chain of Being"; while in the June ELH there is W. J. Bate's "The Sympathetic Imagination in Eighteenth-Century English Criticism."

NEWS FROM ENGLAND

J. R. Moore writes on July 29: "Back in England again, where the names are enough to keep one constantly in mind of the 18th Century. From an unpromising seat in an Underground train, one sees the station 'Moor Park' listed on a post outside, and above the aisle is an advertisement, 'The "write" stationery is "Harley" Bond.'

"Willard Connely at the American University Union has kept on with his 18th Century studies, but in recent years he has seen few Americans. Most Americans in London are in uniform, and they have transformed the entire region around Grosvenor Square into a Quarter of their own. The huge QM store is (naturally enough) almost directly across Oxford St. from Selfridge's. Fifteen years ago I saw the then Prince of Wales entering the Grosvenor House for a three guinea charity ball; today the same ballroom is used for the Officers' Mess, with 960 seats filled three times at each meal, where what is said to be the best food in Europe is served at 1/6.

"Classes at the Army University Center No. 1 (at Shrivenham, Berks, 22 miles s. w. of Oxford) begin on August 1. The maturity of the students (enlisted men and officers from all over the European Theater) is shown by the fact that six times as many have enrolled for the 18th Century as for the Romantic Movement! Quite seriously, American universities will have to reckon with the point of view of these men who average 26 years old; they are beyond the undergraduate level in many ways, and are intent on getting into professional careers as soon as possible. Symptomatic is the great rush to Commerce, the preference for Photography and Life Drawing to the History of Art, and (quite unexpectedly) the great preference for Speech to Play-Production.

"If my schedule permits, I hope to see the Swift exhibit at Cambridge in October. Trains are less frequent than in peace time, and buses are badly crowded. Rooms are still more crowded. No one is

allowed to leave the Post overnight unless he has arranged for his billeting. One can get a bed in Oxford for 2/-- (if he will share the room with nine other officers). Private rooms are naturally much more expensive, if and when they may be had.

"Special Service provides daily trips to Oxford (when a bus is available), besides week-end trips to Bath or to Bournemouth, occasional evening trips to Stonehenge, and nightly trips to the theater in Stratford. Otherwise one travels when and how he can. Within the past 20 days, I have gone by steamship (the biggest afloat), lighter, railway cars (reserved for the Army or public), Underground, city and interurban buses, camp and interurban Army buses, Red Cross ambulance, jeeps, and bicycle. When a bus connection failed on the last lap from Oxford, I walked the six miles from Faringdon.

"And travel is worth the while here. In a literary sense, we are bounded on the north by the Stratford of Shakespeare, on the northwest by the park of the Lord Bathurst of Swift and Pope, on the west by the Bath of Fielding and Jane Austen, on the south by Trollope's Barchester and Stevenson's Skerryvore, and on the east by Alfred's birthplace, Scott's Cumnor and Woodstock, and the place from which Swift's friend and patron took his title, now (since the development of automobile works and war plants) more familiarly known as "the Latin Quarter of Morris Cowley."

DAMAGE TO BRITISH MUSEUM

Dick Altick (F&M) sends in some clippings containing information of interest to our readers. The London Times for May 16, 1945 gives details about damage done to the British Museum in various air raids. An oil bomb once crashed directly through the dome of the building bringing down a shower of bricks which demolished the lamp on the superintendent's table in the center of the big room.

In all, the Museum was damaged by six high explosive bombs. A

100# bomb fell on the King Edward VII Building on Sept. 18, 1940, but failed to explode. By an extraordinary coincidence a 500# bomb five days later came through the same hole and itself failed to explode. Probably no other building has ever received two "dud" bombs through the same hole.

A 100# bomb Sept. 23, 1940 fell through the Ethnographical Gallery into the King's Library, where it caused some bad destruction. A high explosive bomb on Nov. 16, 1940 fell in the Pediment Hall at the north end of the new Parthenon Gallery, not yet opened to the public -- with much destruction.

The Chief damage at Bloomsbury was caused by incendiaries in the fire raid of May 10-11. Ten of the upper galleries of the Museum were destroyed, including the Greek Bronze Room, and various rooms for Greek and Roman art. Fortunately the exhibits had been evacuated. The same night saw the burning of the south-west quadrant of the museum's main book-stack, and here the loss was some 150,000 volumes, mostly works on medicine, law and archeology of the last 100 years. Probably nothing irreplaceable.

Most grievous of all was the loss Oct. 20, 1940 when a high explosive bomb hit the Newspaper Repository in Colindale. Some 30,000 bound volumes, mostly provincial English newspapers of the nineteenth century were destroyed, many irreplaceable.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

The London Times, for June 8, 1945, tells of the dispersal of the Public Records Office papers. No record was lost or damaged by enemy action, although the building of the Public Record Office was within the area of intensive bombing.

The building itself suffered minor damage, and on Sept. 19, 1940, "one of the turrets was removed by a high-explosive bomb." About 70 incendiaries in all fell on the

premises etc.

The Times adds further: "The more important records were successfully evacuated to seven repositories, which included a castle, several mansions, a training college, a poor law building, and a prison, of which the last two best served the purpose."

It may be some time, however, before the records can be used since 90,000 cases of records must be brought back from the country.

In a recent letter from E. S. de Beer there are two small items of news to pass on to our readers. As late as the last of May, readers at the British Museum were rationed to six tickets a day. And Mrs. Rowell of Gough Square says that the Johnson House, in addition to a new roof, will need a good deal of repairing, with wainscoting needing refitting etc.

De Beer adds that "London this summer is very green and fresh, though the buildings are shabby at best, and frequently sadly battered." But with the "redemption of Europe" at last begun, however tentatively, the damage can be forgotten. "And so the trees look greener and the flowers brighter and the people in the streets more friendly."

The Johnson Club dined recently at Brown's Hotel in London, at which time R. W. Chapman talked on the Johnson-Thrale correspondence. The substance of his talk will appear as an Appendix in the new edition of Johnson's Letters, which everyone will be glad to hear is now rapidly approaching completion.

Peter Quennell, author of the new volume The Profane Virtues (Four essays on Boswell, Gibbon, Sterne and Wilkes), addressed the Churchill Club at Ashburnham House on April 26, with his subject James Boswell. Lord David Cecil was chairman for the evening.

JOHNSON AND SWIFT

A hitherto unnoticed example of Johnson's depreciation of Swift is sent in by Bill Wimsatt (Yale). In the Dictionary occurs the following definition: "FUMETTE. n.s. [French] A word introduced by cooks, and the pupils of cooks, for the stink of meat." The only example of the use of the word which Johnson gives is from Swift. "A haunch of ven'son made her sweat, Unless it had the right fumette."

Remembering Johnson's well-known dislike of trade terms, cant, low, and accidental terms lacking in etymology, we may easily see in this use of Swift as an example the lexicographer's sly way of digging at an author whose style, on other grounds, he did not much admire.

Wimsatt further comments: "I can't help thinking that if this had got into the Life -- if Johnson had said, 'Why, yes, Sir, Swift wrote a low style; he went into the kitchen and learned the language of the kitchen; he was a pupil of the cook' -- this would be quoted as one of his characteristic utterances."

Note: In the O. E. D. the only other "pupil" recorded as guilty of using this term of cookery before 1755 is Smollett in Ferdinand Count Fathom.

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DR. JOHNSON'S PRAYERS

D. Elton Trueblood of the Memorial Church, Stanford Univ., writes that if the paper quota permits he intends to bring out this autumn a new edition of the Prayers of Dr. Johnson. In this volume, which will contain an interpretative essay by the editor, the prayers will be separated from the Journal items and will be arranged in classifications, instead of by mere chronology.

The new volume of Dr. Johnson's prayers will be published by James Ladd Delkin, who specializes in fine editions. If its services can be obtained, the Grabhorn Press will be commissioned to print the work. When more paper is available, possibly in 1946, it is in-

tended to have a cheaper edition printed from the same hand-set type.

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MISCELLANEOUS JOHNSONIANA

Forty thousand copies have so far been printed of J. W. Krutch's Samuel Johnson.

FUGACITY

Among the scores of "outlandish" words which amuse modern scholars in Johnson's Dictionary (See Krutch p. 112) there is "fugacity". But William Meikle, a scientist in a defense plant, writes "That word is neither outlandish nor dead. I quote from Getman and Daniels, Theoretical Chemistry, (6th edition, p. 490) 'There is a great practical advantage to be gained by utilizing the perfect gas laws, and in order to apply these laws to ordinary gases, G. N. Lewis invented the term "fugacity." 'So the scientists are having to re-invent Johnson's hard words!

CHINA TO PERU

Elliott Dobbie points out that if readers will survey page 4 of Life for July 23, 1945, they will discover that in Maine it is only 48 miles from China to Peru.

JOHNSON AND WAR

An interesting analysis of Johnson's attitude towards war appears in an essay by H. R. Kilbourne in E.L.H. for June, 1945. At the end of the essay appears the poignant note: "Capt. Kilbourne died Sept. 1, 1944."

LILLIAN DE LA TORRE

The latest of the Sam: Johnson detective stories, appearing in Elery Queen's Mystery Magazine, may be found in the current Sept. issue. Entitled "The Wax-Work Cadaver" it is a delightfully written bit of fiction involving the Great Cham and his biographer.

Lillian de la Torre (Mrs. George McCue), the author, was recently entertained in Chicago by the Boswell Club, and, of course, received one of their D.F. degrees. From an account of the affair in the Chicago Sun for July 1 we learn that "The degree of Doctor of Frustration was also awarded posthumously to Elizabeth Canning, the one who was missing." All in all, R. Van Voorhies comments, the affair was "the greatest sensation to hit Boswellian Chicago since the great fire."

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MEMBERS IN SERVICE

Henry Pettit is now the Commanding Officer of the Navy V-12 Unit at Doane College, Crete Nebraska.

The address of Ensign Earl R. Wasserman is APA 229, USS Rockingham, Care F.P.O. San Francisco, Calif. On an attack transport which participated in the invasion of Okinawa, he is Communications Officer on board and in his spare time is editing the ship's newspaper.

Ernest Mossner (if we can read his address correctly, obscured as it is by the postmark) may now be reached care 2nd Platoon, Class 42, TCOCS, NOAAB, New Orleans 12, La. As he puts it, he is "out of the refrigerator into the fire -- literally and geographically."

Curt Zimansky (Capt. Inf.) writes from Dubuque, Iowa: "This afternoon was spent in going over the fifteen or so News Letters that had accumulated here during my stay in England; obviously they would have been of rather more use to me over there, though my stay there was as unJohnsonian as possible.

"I avoided London as much as I could, and thought the high road to Scotland a fine prospect. There was the expected tour to the Hebrides,

crossing Johnson's route several times. I took a bicycle (which suited me at least as well as his horse did Johnson). So I saw Glen Moriston, where occurred the most typical of all Johnson's reflections on romantic nature (it is, it seems, to be submerged in an hydro-electric project ... he would approve), and begged a ride from Kyle to Portree on a cattle boat. No epics, no second sight (but I did hear two words of Gaelic spoken)."

Zimansky's new address will be 2310 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Va.

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A FEW RECENT CHANGES

In our original prospectus, way back in Dec. 1940, we suggested as one of the services which the JNL might offer would be to list changes of position and address. During the war there have been few of the former, and the latter have largely been taken care of in our news items about members in the services. However, now that there will probably be many important moves we hope members will let us know at once of any changes of address, so that the news may be immediately passed on to friends and colleagues.

As samples, we list the following which have come to our attention: Allardyce Nicoll is leaving Yale to return to England, where he will be connected with the Univ. of Birmingham; R. F. Jones is moving from Washington Univ., St. Louis, to Stanford; Allen Hazen from Hunter to Chicago; W. D. Templeman from Illinois to the Univ. of Southern Calif.; Arthur Christy from Columbia to Illinois.

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Lack of space does not allow us to include an interesting comment by T.O. Mabbott on admiring both Pope and the Romantics; and also a discussion of a Freudian interpretation of Johnson by Dr. Edw. Hitschmann in the Psychoanalytic Review for April, 1945. They will be in our next.